

Appl. No. 10/678,524
 Amdt. Dated 11/17/2005
 Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 30, 2005. In the Office Action, claims 15-19 have been allowed and claims 3-8 and 11-14 have been objected, but include patentable subject matter. Claims 15-19 have not been amended. Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include limitations associated with objected claims 8 and 14, respectively. The limitations of intervening claims 10 and 11 have been further introduced into newly amended claim 9. Claims 10-11 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice. Hence, all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pollard (USP 4,477,764). While Applicant traverses the outstanding §102(b) rejection, this rejection is now moot based on the amendments set forth above. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

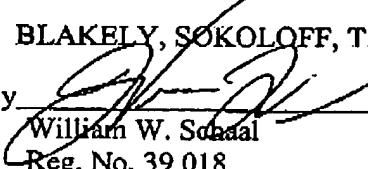
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: November 17, 2005

By


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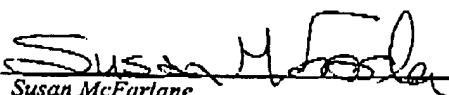
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 Susan McFarlane 11/17/2005
 Date